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SUBJECT: TURKISH-IRANIAN RELATIONS, BY THE NUMBERS

¶1. (SBU) As the constroversy over the Iranian nuclear program continues and many in Turkey become increasingly anxious about next steps, we thought it useful to review the basic elements of Turkey's relations with this troublesome neighbor. What follows is a snapshot overview of Turkey's interaction with Iran in a variety of fields.

¶2. (U) Diplomatic Relations

- Turkey maintains an embassy in Tehran and consulates in Tabriz and Urumiye.
- Iran maintains an embassy in Ankara and consulates in Istanbul, Erzurum, and Trabzon.
- Turkey and Iran are both members of several multilateral organizations, including the UN, OIC, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Development Eight (D8).

¶3. (U) Recent High Level Visits

- In March 2006 Iranian Parliamentary Foreign Policy, National Security, and Defense Affairs Committee Chair Aladdin Boroujerdi visited Turkey.
- In November 2005 Iranian FM Manouchehr Mottaki visited Turkey.
- In July 2004 PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Iran.
- In February 2004 President Ahmet Necdet Sezer visited Iran

¶4. (U) Tourism

- In 2005, 960,000 Iranian tourists came to Turkey.
- In 2004, 630,000 Iranian tourists came to Turkey.

¶5. (U) Border Crossings

- There are two road crossings, a major border gate at Gurbualak in Agri province and a second crossing at Esendere in Hakkari province.
- There is one railway crossing at Kapikoy in Van province.
- According to Turkish MFA officials, 70,000 trucks cross the border every year, connecting Turkey to Iran, Central Asia, and beyond.

¶6. (U) Security Cooperation

- Ankara and Tehrn hold high level security meetings once ever six months.
- They also hold periodic meetigs between local security officials along the border.
- According to an April 6 media report, Iranian officials have turned more than 60 captured PKK militants over to Turkish authorities.

¶7. (U) Trade

-- In 2005, Turkish-Iranian trade amounted to \$4.4 billion, or less than 3 percent of all of Turkey's imports and exports.
-- About one-quarter of the trade is Turkish exports to Iran, mostly consumer goods and processed materials.
-- About three-quarters of the trade is Turkish imports from Iran, mostly crude oil and natural gas.
-- This total trade volume represents a four-fold increase since 1995 when the two countries only traded goods and services totalling about \$1 billion.

18. (U) Investment

-- In 2003, Turkish firms invested \$200 million in Iran.
-- Figures for 2004 Turkish investment in Iran are not available.
-- In 2005, Turkish firms invested \$25 million in Iran.
-- Figures on Iranian investment in Turkey are unavailable.

19. (U) Energy

-- Iran is Turkey,s largest supplier of crude oil and its second largest supplier of natural gas.
-- In 2005, Turkey purchased 6 million tons of crude oil and 4.3 billion cubic meters of gas from Iran.
-- These imports represent roughly 24 percent of Turkey,s total crude oil and 16 percent of Turkey,s total natural gas purchases.

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